

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Fiscal Note

HF 2048 - Jury Trial in Divorces (LSB 5030 HH)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

Description

This Bill allows either party in a dissolution of marriage action to demand a jury trial concerning any material facts not stipulated to by the parties.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact ranges from \$ 2.0 million to \$ 4.0 million annually.

A jury trial in a dissolution could take between two to four days at a cost for a jury of \$260 per day. This would be an additional cost to using a judge to hear the case. There were 3,810 dissolutions that went to trial in calendar year 2000.

Assumptions

1. Of the 21,337 dissolutions and modifications disposed of in the courts in calendar year 2000, 3,810 dissolutions went to trial.
2. Involving a jury in a trial would increase the amount of time for judges and court staff by at least one and one-half days (12 hours).
3. The average daily cost of a jury is \$260.
4. A jury trial of a dissolution could take from two to four days at a cost of \$260/day or \$520 to \$1,040 per case tried.

Source

Judicial Branch

_____/s/ Dennis C Prouty_____
January 28, 2002

The fiscal note and correction impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.
